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Andréa Marion

Chamber welcomes new director

Andréa Marion took office this week as the new executive director of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

In a press release, the Chamber's Board of Directors said Marion will lead the Chamber by providing visionary leadership and supporting and fostering the needs of businesses and indus-

DIRECTOR, 7

Coronavirus no threat to city yet

Holyoke public health officials are monitoring the spread of coronavirus, but said this week that the risk to city residents remains low, with no infections reported in the area.

The new 2019 strain of the virus, first detected in Wuhan, China, causes a lung infection. It has resulted in thousands of confirmed human infections, primarily in China, with a small proportion of cases resulting in death. Other countries, including the United States, have identified a small but growing number of cases in people who have traveled to China. As of Feb. 25, there has been one confirmed case of coronavirus in Massachusetts, according to information from city officials.

CORONAVIRUS, 8

Open forum Tuesday on school budget

Holyoke school officials will hold an open forum to discuss their 2020-21 school year budget next Tuesday.

Families and community members are welcome to participate in this forum, 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke.

New plan calls for 1 middle school

Supt.: Replacing Peck is a priority as a 1st phase

By Peter Spotts
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After voters rejected a proposal to build two new middle schools last November, Holyoke school officials are planning to ask for one.

The School Department has submitted a statement of interest to the City Council for a proposal that would build one new middle school on the Northampton Street site currently occupied by Peck School.

Last year's proposal called for a Peck replacement along with a new middle school on Chestnut Street. While that plan failed, Receiver-Superintendent Stephen Zrike said the school system would still like to build two schools



An architect's rendering shows last year's proposal for a new Peck Middle School.

File image

— just not at the same time.

"We still believe the plan of two buildings makes sense. We'd continue to try to work towards funding two buildings down the road," Zrike said. "It will take longer, but there was a lot of community support for two buildings. I think we're going one piece at a time and this would be the first phase."

The new Peck envisioned in the proposal is the same size as the one proposed in 2019,

meaning it would accommodate about 550 students — half of Holyoke's grade 6-8 student body.

While the ideal scenario would be to bring two schools into the district at the same time, Zrike said that financially it's more feasible to do one first, and Peck is the more pressing need.

"It was very clear through the whole process that we were concerned for the Peck build-

ing," he said. "We were very clear that Peck was a real concern in terms of the facility, the quality of the facility, heating, cooling, safety. There's more urgency around the need to replace that building."

A letter accompanying the request outlines the pros and cons building first at each site. Building a new Peck first would yield health and safety

See **SCHOOL**, page 12



Eileen Driscoll dances the "Gay Gordons" with her grandson, Owen Spaulding, at the Ancient Order of Hibernians' Irish Night on Saturday. Behind them in the line are Julianne and Tom Bartley.

Photo by Michael Ballway

Hibernians catch a crowd for Irish celebration

By Michael Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Cornd beef, step dancing and folksongs about rebellion can mean only one thing: It's almost St. Patrick's Day.

Add in a grand colleen, a quilt raffle, and two people named O'Connor receiving award plaques and parade sashes, and it can only be Irish Night with the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The annual event was held at the Log Cabin for the first time last Saturday, and tickets sold out, with more than 400 in attendance, from toddlers to retirees.

More than just a celebration of culture, Irish Night is

the biggest fundraiser of the year for Holyoke's Hibernians. Proceeds from admission tickets, auctions and raffles support scholarships for college and study abroad students, charitable contributions to local non-profits, and even emergency help to individual families in need, such as victims of house fires.

The AOH also functions as a year-round cultural group promoting Irish and Irish-American culture.

"We try to keep the Irish heritage alive, not only in Holyoke, but the surrounding towns," said Holyoke AOH President Paul Hogan.

See **IRISH**, page 16

Panel, exhibit examine city's black history

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

When Erika Slocumb was invited to lead an oral history project on the black community of Holyoke, she wasn't sure where to start.

"I said, 'First off, there are no black people in Holyoke,' and then we started to go into the archives at Wistariahurst and the history is there," said Slocumb, a Springfield native and Ph.D. student at the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass-Amherst. "It goes back to the 18th century of prominent black people in the community who

helped build Holyoke before it was Holyoke, as a city. Even when the names are documented in history books, it's not associated with who these people are."

What resulted was Reliquary of Blackness, a history exhibit at Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke. Slocumb spoke about her research at a Black History Month panel discussion at Holyoke Community College this week. Also at the event were several members of Holyoke's black community who participated in the project.

See **HISTORY**, page 5



Erika Slocumb stands with a section of her Holyoke history exhibit, Reliquary of Blackness, on display at the Holyoke Community College library.

Photo by Shelby Macri

Presidential primary slated for Super Tuesday

By Michael Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. next Tuesday, March 3, for the Massachusetts presidential primary election and a special state senate district primary election.

Holyoke voters will help determine the winners of four parties' primary elections for U.S. president, local delegates to state party committees, and the members of ward party committees. On a separate ballot at the same election, city voters will also help choose the nominees for the March 31 special election for state Senate.

Tuesday's voting will take place at several precinct polling locations throughout the city.

Ward 1, Precinct A: Rosary Towers Recreation Room, 21 Bowers St.

Ward 1, Precinct B: Prospect Heights Community Room, 41 Chestnut St.

Ward 2, Precinct A: Morgan School gymnasium, 596 S. Bridge St. entrance only

Ward 2, Precinct B: Falcetti Towers, 475 Maple St.

Ward 3, Precinct A: Elmwood Engine House on South Street

Ward 3, Precinct B: Metcalf School gymnasium, 2019 Northampton St.

Ward 4, both precincts: St. Paul's Church Parish Center, 485 Appleton St.

Ward 5, Precinct A: McMahon School gymnasium, 75 Kane Road

Ward 5, Precinct B: Donahue School gymnasium, 210 Whiting Farms Road

Ward 6, both precincts: Sullivan School, 400 Jarvis Ave.

Ward 7, both precincts: White School gymnasium, 1 Jefferson St.

Any registered voter who did not participate in absentee or early voting can go to the polls on March 3. Registered members of the Democratic, Republican, Green-Rainbow or Libertarian parties may vote in their own party's primary election. Unaffiliated ("unenrolled") voters may choose any party's ballot upon checking in at the polling place.

Voters will be handed two ballots — one for the presidential and party committee races, and one for the state senate race. Unaffiliated voters do not have to choose both ballots from the same party.

Holyoke residents can check their voter registration status at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele, or call the city Registrar of Voters Office at 413-322-5540. The deadline to register to vote or change parties

for the primary election was Feb. 12. Any additional questions can be directed to the city clerk at 413-322-5520.

Presidential candidates

All four parties have contested races for their presidential nominees. The candidates are listed in ballot order.

Democratic: Former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Minnesota U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Colorado U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Hawaii U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, New Jersey U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, former San Antonio, Texas, Mayor Julian Castro, California hedge fund manager Tom Steyer, Vermont U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, former Maryland U.S. Rep. John K. Delaney, New York entrepreneur Andrew Yang, former South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg, and California author Marianne Williamson. Bennet, Booker, Castro, Delaney, Patrick, Williamson and Yang appear on ballots even though they are no longer actively campaigning.

Republican: Former Massachusetts Gov. William F. Weld, former Illinois U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh, incumbent President Donald J. Trump, and California businessman Roque "Rocky" de la Fuente. Walsh appears on ballots even though he has suspended his campaign.

Green-Rainbow: Dario Hunter of California, Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry of California, Kent Mesplay of California, and Howard Hawkins of New York.

Libertarian: Arvin Vohra of Maryland, Vermin Love Supreme of Massachusetts, Jacob George Hornberger of Virginia, Samuel Joseph Robb of Pennsylvania, Dan Taxation is Theft Behrman of Texas, Kimberly Margaret Ruff of Arizona, Kenneth Reed Armstrong of Oregon, Adam Kokesh of Arizona, Jo Jorgensen of South Carolina, and Max Abramson of New Hampshire. Ruff appears on ballots even though she has suspended her campaign.

State Senate

The March 3 election also includes a special primary ballot for state senator in the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District, which includes all of Holyoke, part of Chicopee, and nine cities and towns to the south and west. State Rep. John Velis of Westfield is the sole candidate for the Democratic nomination.



Voters mark their presidential primary ballots at City Hall on Wednesday during this week's early voting period. Early voting ends Friday afternoon, but the Election Day polls will be open as usual next Tuesday.

Photos by Michael Ballway



Election workers Patti Devine, left, and Aurea Espinosa were ready to check in voters during early voting on Wednesday at City Hall.

Businessman John Cain of Southwick is the only Republican running. The nominees will face each other in a March 31 special election. The winner will serve the remainder of the term vacated by state Sen. Donald Humason Jr. in January. Humason, a Republican, resigned after being elected mayor of Westfield. There are no senate candidates on the Green-Rainbow or Libertarian primary ballots.

The term to be served expires at the end of this year; the district will elect — or re-elect — a state senator for the following two years at the general election in November.

Party committees

Also running on the presidential ballot are candidates for the Democratic and Republican state committees. Committee members on the ballot in Holyoke rep-

resent the entire 2nd Hampden and Hampshire Senate District.

The race for Democratic committeeman is contested, between Raymond M.P. Drewnowski of Holyoke and David George Morin of Agawam. The others are not contested: Marjorie R. Dunelew of Holyoke for Democratic state committeewoman, Richard A. Berrena of Holyoke for Republican state committeeman, and Linda Vacon of Holyoke for Republican state committeewoman.

There are no candidates for state committee on Green-Rainbow or Libertarian ballots in Holyoke.

Each precinct's presidential ballot also includes candidates for ward party committees. In each ward, the number of candidates is fewer than the number of seats available. In many cases, there are no candidates.



Mark Dusseault escorts his daughter Haley Dusseault to the stage.



Correction

The name of one of the members of Holyoke's Colleen's Court was misspelled in several places in last week's edition of The Holyoke Sun. Haley Dusseault's name is spelled correctly in the captions of the photos reprinted on this page.

Additionally, Dusseault's escort was misidentified in one photo. Mark Dusseault is correctly listed as Haley's father in this week's newspaper.

Top photo, Moira McDermott, second from left, reacts after being named the 2020 grand colleen at the Coronation Ball held Feb. 15. Standing with her are fellow finalists — and Colleen's Court members — from left, Haley Dusseault, Natalie Mayko, Patricia Haradon and Emily Couture. Bottom photo, from left, Haley Dusseault, Natalie Mayko, Moira McDermott, Patricia Haradon and Emily Couture stand together as the full court with their new grand colleen.

Photos by Shelby Macri

Gov. Baker helps open HCC Campus Center

Holyoke Community College will welcome Gov. Charlie Baker and other state and local officials to the grand opening celebration of its Campus Center on Friday, Feb. 28.

The event begins at 2 p.m. with tours, remarks, a ribbon-cutting, food and a variety of student-led activities on all three floors of the 66,000 square-foot facility, which is the result of a two-year, \$43.5 million, top-to-bottom renovation and expansion.

Other expected guests include Patricia Marshall, deputy commissioner for academic affairs and student success at the state Department of Higher Education; Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse; state Rep. Aaron Vega, D-Holyoke, and legislators serving surrounding cities and towns.

A short speaking program in the second floor dining area will begin at 2:30 p.m. with remarks from Baker, state Secretary of Education Jim Peyser, HCC President Christina Royal, and Maiv Lee-Ruiz, a nursing student and new student orientation leader from Holyoke.

Before and after the speeches, guests will be invited to sample food prepared by HCC Dining Services/Aramark; listen to live music from an HCC student quartet; play dominoes

with students in El Centro, home to HCC's Multicultural Academic Services program; watch e-sports students in action on a virtual playing field; buy HCC gear in the College Store; and visit HCC's student engagement area to talk to students representing clubs and other campus activities.

The Campus Center first opened in 1978 and had been plagued by insidious leaks and water damage for decades before it was closed for reconstruction in 2017. The lower floors of the building were essentially gutted down to its concrete foundation and supports before being rebuilt. It reopened for the start of the fall 2019 semester while construction crews continued the finish work.

Key parts of the project included adding about 9,000 square feet to the building, enclosing an external walkway on the second floor to expand the dining area, squaring off the sloping façade and encapsulating the entire building to make it watertight, adding an atrium entrance off the HCC Courtyard on the west side and a bridge over Tannery Brook that leads from a dedicated visitor parking lot to a first-floor welcome center, where visitors and students will find easier access to HCC's admissions, advising, careers, transfer and testing offices.



A bridge over Tannery Brook leads from the visitor parking lot to a new first-floor welcome center in the HCC Campus Center.

Submitted photos



Gov. Charlie Baker and other state officials will help open the renovated Holyoke Community College Campus Center on Friday.

City native kicks off bid for state rep.



Patrick Beaudry

Holyoke native and 32-year-old homeowner Patrick Beaudry will formally kick off his bid to be the city's next state representative in an event at the Wherehouse? next Thursday evening.

"I am equal parts humbled and excited to bring my family, friends, and supporters from across the city together on March 5th to ensure Holyokers have representation on Beacon Hill they can be proud of," said Beaudry. "The Paper City's next state representative will need deep connections within the community, as well as on Beacon Hill, to get the job done on critically important issues like public education and safety, economic development, and the environment. I believe I am the candidate in this race who can combine experience and passion for this city to ensure Holyoke's working families get their fair share."

Beaudry publicly announced his candidacy for state representative in January and has since been actively engaging voters and local stakeholders

at community events and through door-to-door outreach. He is seeking the seat currently held by state Rep. Aaron Vega, who announced last month that he will not seek re-election in 2020.

For four years Beaudry has served as manager of public affairs at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, where he has focused on advancing policy and programming surrounding the regional agency's work on transportation, environmental protection, and community development. He previously served as a legislative aide to Vega's predecessor Michael Kane, as well as state Sen. Michael Knapik, and state Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz, the first Latina state senator in Massachusetts history.

Beaudry is a product of the Holyoke public school system with an undergraduate degree from Suffolk University and a master's degree in public administration from UMass-Boston's McCormack School of Public Policy. He is a fourth generation Holyoker and lives in the Oakdale neighborhood.

Singers to share 'Dreams and Defiance'

Wistariahurst will host Dreams and Defiance, a concert by musicians-activists-educators Pamela Means and Diana Alvarez, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29.

Tickets are \$15 and available at wistariahurst.org and at the door. The concert will be on the first floor of the Main House at Wistariahurst, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke. For accessibility information, visit wistariahurst.org/about-us/accessibility-information.

Wistariahurst is an educational and cultural center owned and operated by the city of Holyoke and supported by The Wistariahurst Foundation. For more information, visit wistariahurst.org.

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HCC Foundation offers scholarships

The Holyoke Community College Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2020-21 academic year.

More than \$200,000 in awards is available for incoming, continuing and transferring HCC students. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 25.

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships, which are awarded through the HCC Foundation, the college's nonprofit fundraising corporation.

Applicants need only fill out a single online form to be automatical-

ly matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for student in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

The application process begins at www.hcc.edu/scholarships. Questions should be directed to the HCC Foundation office at 413-552-2182, or Donahue 170 on the HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke.



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Registration is now open for the Spring 2020 Soccer Season!

Registration fees: U8 & U9 \$65 / U10-U12 \$90 / U13 & U14 \$100

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Boston mayor receives Ambassador Award

Martin Walsh, mayor of Boston, will be the 29th recipient of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Ambassador Award, the St. Patrick's Committee announced this week.

Walsh was introduced on Tuesday as the award winner in the Eagle Room at Boston City Hall, with members of the Parade Committee in attendance, as well as Dan Mulhall, ambassador of Ireland to the United States, and Laoise Moore, the Irish consul general based in Boston.

"I want to thank Ambassador Mulhall and the Holyoke parade organizers for this honor that is an affirmation of our relationship with Ireland, the values we share, and the work we've done together," said Walsh. "For me, the Ambassador Award affirms our values of welcoming and supporting immigrants and celebrating our cultures. I thank the people of Holyoke and the parade organizers for living by these values and creating this opportunity to show that commitment, and I look forward to wishing everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day in Holyoke on March 22."

The Ambassador Award is presented annually to a person or group who has worked to promote the relationship between the people of Ireland and the people of the United States. Past recipients include entertainer Tommy Makem, author Frank McCourt, philanthropist Loretta Brennan Glucksmann, and Patricia Harty, editor-in-chief and co-founder of Irish America. The 2019 recipient was Dr. Christopher Fox, professor of English at the University of Notre Dame and co-founder of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.

At the Feb. 25 event, Mulhall spoke about the importance of Americans who celebrate their Irish heritage and the significant benefits this brings to the United States and Ireland. Connecting culturally significant cities like Holyoke and Boston, he remarked, only helps the commonwealth, and he was honored to be a part of this presentation.

The 54th mayor of Boston, Walsh was born and raised in the city's Dorchester neighborhood to Irish immigrant parents. Since his youth, he has often visited Rosmuc, Connemara, the source of his deep Irish roots. In 2014, he formally committed Boston to a sister-city relationship with Belfast. This has resulted in outcomes such as the Cinemagic program, which that last year saw 10 young people from Northern Ireland produce a short film about life inside the Boston public schools. Walsh has been a powerful advocate for Irish-American business relations and navigation of a resolution of Brexit — the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union — that preserves peace



Pictured at the Ambassador Award announcement in Boston City Hall on Tuesday are, from left, Shane Caffrey, Hayley Dunn, Michael Moriarty, Stephanie Joyce, William Sullivan, Marc Joyce, Kateri Walsh, Mayor Martin Walsh, Irish Ambassador Dan Mulhall, Irish Consul General Laoise Moore, Jacki Reardon and Jim Meenaghan.

and prosperity.

Walsh is the recipient of numerous recognitions and honors in Ireland, including the Freedom of the City award in Galway City and being honored as a Freeman of County Galway in 2018.

Walsh describes himself as a lifelong champion of working people and a proud product of the city of Boston. His vision is of a thriving, healthy, and innovative Boston, a city with equality and opportunity for all, where a revolutionary history inspires creative solutions to the challenges of the 21st century.

Before taking office, Walsh served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he was a leader on job creation and worker protections; substance abuse, mental health, and homelessness; K-12 education; and civil rights. Walsh also made his mark as a labor leader. After following his father into Laborers Local 223 in Boston, he rose to head the Building and Construction Trades Council from 2011 to 2013. He worked with business and community leaders to promote high-quality development, and created a program called Building Pathways that has become a model for increasing diversity in the workplace and providing good career opportunities for women and people of color.

As a child, Walsh survived a serious bout of Burkitt lymphoma thanks to extraordinary care at Boston Children's Hospital and Dana Farber Cancer



From left, Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade President Marc Joyce looks on as Boston Mayor Martin Walsh is congratulated by Dan Mulhall, ambassador of Ireland to the United States, at the Ambassador Award announcement.

Submitted photos

Institute. His recovery from alcoholism as a young adult led to his lifelong commitment to the prevention and treatment of addiction. And while working full-time as a legislator, he returned to school to earn a degree in political science at Boston College. Walsh continues to reside in Dorchester, where he shares his life with longtime partner Lorrie Higgins.

Holyoke Parade President Marc Joyce said, "The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke takes great pleasure in traveling to Boston to announce the selection of Mayor Martin J. Walsh as the recipient of the 2020 Ambassador Award. Mayor Walsh joins a distinguished list of

past recipients, some of whom, like him, have significant ties to the city of Boston and the commonwealth. Our committee looks forward to welcoming Mayor Walsh to Holyoke when he will be honored at the Ambassador's Breakfast."

Walsh will be honored at the Ambassador's Breakfast the morning of the parade on Sunday, March 22 at the Holyoke Senior Center. To purchase tickets, contact Jacki Reardon at jr080645@comcast.net. For more information on parade-related events, visit holyokestpatricksparade.com.

Boston has its own famous St. Patrick's Day parade, but it is held the previous weekend, on March 15.

Signups open for preschool lottery

Pre-kindergarten applications are now being accepted from families of children who will be 3 years old next school year.

Holyoke's public schools offer free preschool in the Donahue, Kelly, McMahon, Metcalf, Morgan, Sullivan and White schools. To apply for the preschool lottery for the 2020-21 school year, students must turn 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2020, and be a resident of Holyoke. Space is limited and enrollment for students without an IEP is determined by a lottery.

Applications must be received by April 10 to participate in the lottery, which will be drawn April 18. Applications not chosen in the random drawing will be placed on a waitlist, with those received after April 10 added to the bottom of the waitlist in the order in which they were received.

Applications are available at www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/choose-hps/register-your-student.

Students with an IEP should make an appointment for enrollment by calling 413-534-2000.

Homework House expands at St. Paul's

Homework House in Holyoke has expanded its tutoring and mentoring services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Holyoke. This expansion has allowed for vacancies in the program for Holyoke students in grades 1-4. The program includes a reading room for literacy activities and reading time, as well as tutoring in additional subjects. All services are provided in a safe and nurturing environment and are free of charge.

The collaboration between St. Paul's and Homework House began when the Rev. Marisa Egerstrom, the priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, was searching for a way to benefit Holyoke kids and their families. With a similar goal in mind, Homework House was eager to combine both forces and resources to expand the program. Now, with an expansion grant through the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, tutoring services

will be increased to allow up to 35 students into the program.

Mondays through Thursdays are dedicated to homework assistance and working on reading and math skills. On Fridays and during school vacations, fun, academically focused activities are offered.

For more information about placing children in the program, contact Angel Coriano, director of programs, at 413-887-2012 or acoriano@homeworkhouseholyokey.org.

From three different locations in Holyoke, the staff and volunteers of Homework House work to provide free individualized tutoring and mentoring for at-risk children in a safe, nurturing and compassionate setting. Founded in 2007 by Sister Jane Morrissey, SSJ, today Homework House continues as a 501c3 nonprofit. For more information, visit HomeworkHouseHolyoke.org.

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Arrest log

The Holyoke Police Department's arrest log for Feb. 17-23 was not available at press time.

Stop & Shop raising funds to fight diabetes

By Dalton Zbierski
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For the 24th consecutive year, local Stop & Shop supermarkets are partnering with JDRF, formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, to help find a cure for type 1 diabetes. Approximately 130 markets, including 28 Lincoln St. and 2265 Northampton St., Holyoke, are contributing to the fundraising campaign.

JDRF is a nonprofit organization that funds type 1 diabetes research. To contribute to the cause, Stop & Shop is offering customers the option to donate \$1, \$3 or \$5; customers can also round up their purchase to the nearest dollar, donating the additional sum to the nonprofit.

“All of the stores in Western

Massachusetts and Connecticut along with Westchester and Hudson Valley in New York are participating. The program runs from now through March 1,” said Maura O’Brien, a manager of external communications at Stop & Shop.

Since partnering in 1997, Stop & Shop and JDRF have enjoyed a successful relationship. Over the years, the duo’s fundraising efforts have assisted countless individuals suffering from type 1 diabetes. Organizers have lofty expectations for the 2020 campaign.

“Our goal for this year is to exceed what we raised last year, which was over \$260,000 just in the [local] market area,” O’Brien said. “We have goals of meeting and exceeding our 2019 fundraising. Every year it’s been a success, which is why Stop & Shop and JDRF

continue to partner with each other year in and year out.”

Sage Skinner, a 5-year-old girl from Stafford Springs, Conn., is serving as the spokesman of the 2020 drive. Skinner lives with type 1 diabetes and serves as an advocate for all those diagnosed with the disease.

“Sage describes herself as brave. To be 5 years old and describe yourself as brave is pretty tremendous in our eyes. She’s a very rambunctious little girl with so much personality who refuses to be slowed down. We’re really proud to be able to work with her at the JDRF to help find a cure for T1D,” said O’Brien.

O’Brien oversees a variety of fundraising campaigns and community relations programs each year. The two-week drive to fight type 1 diabetes is

among her favorites. She admires the daily resilience that is displayed by individuals with the disease.

“It’s a 24/7 disease, and it’s something that someone with diabetes has to be mindful of at all times. It’s a ‘mind over matter’ process. They need to be prepared to react to whatever issues they might come across throughout the day,” said O’Brien.

For more information regarding the JDRF and type 1 diabetes research, visit jdrf.org. O’Brien emphasized the significance of even the smallest contribution.

“Any small amount really helps; those nickels and dimes eventually add up to a large number, and that number will eventually be able to do a lot for research and hopefully finding a cure for T1D,” she said.

Mont Marie Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center hires new administrator

Mont Marie Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center this week announced the appointment of Lisa Rivard-Chopak as its administrator.

Rivard-Chopak brings 20 years of health care experience to her leadership role at Mont Marie. As administrator, she is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the 84-bed center at 36 Lower Westfield Road, Holyoke, which provides high-quality

subacute care, specialty stroke recovery, orthopedic and cardiac rehabilitation services, and long-term care to residents from Holyoke and surrounding communities.

“I am thrilled to join Mont Marie and am committed to high-quality, compassionate care for our residents and short-term rehabilitation patients,” said Rivard-Chopak. “For more than a century, Mont Marie has faithfully served

Western Massachusetts with unparalleled personal attention and care, and that tradition continues today with our dedicated staff, specialized programming and state-of-the-art environment.”

Mont Marie has a four-star rating with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and it is highly ranked on NursingHomes.com, which helps families compare skilled nursing and rehabilitation care options.

Prior to joining Mont Marie, Rivard-Chopak served as administrator of a health care center in Connecticut and spent the previous 15 years in various roles in the long-term care sector. She holds an associate’s degree from Naugatuck Valley Community College and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in health care administration, respectively, from Goodwin College and Quinnipiac University.

HISTORY, from page 1

“We’re still here, we are here and we’re not going anywhere!” exclaimed panelist Jacqueline Westbrook when she heard of Slocumb’s initial reaction. “We’re here to discuss ‘You can’t sit down on the bus’ and ‘You have to sit at the back of the classroom,’ all of that. I’m praising her — Slocumb — because she is bringing that alive. You can’t forget where we came from, ‘cause we’re still here, we aren’t going anywhere, I’m not. With that being said, I give it all to Erika, she is a godsend.”

Slocumb said she was careful to keep her project focused on authentic voices from Holyoke’s black residents.

“We have to hold museums accountable for the way that they handle our history, and also, I think, we have to reclaim the space,” Slocumb said. “I’ve been working on this project with the community and at every step of the way, I’m in contact with the community. You asked me here to speak, and the first thing I said was, ‘We’re going to get folks from the community, right?’ Because this is their history, and if we’re going to treat it like it should be treated, if we’re going to treat it like a holy thing, if we’re going to treat it like a respectful thing, then we have to respect the people and treat the individuals and artifacts as holy relics.”

Panel stories

Westbrook was joined on the panel by Dian McCollum, Trudy Monson, Emikan Sudan a.k.a. James McElroy, and Doug Griffin. All five of the panelists helped Slocumb gather information, artifacts and stories for Reliquary of Blackness.

Each panelist talked about growing up and their experiences in Holyoke schools. Many of the panelists graduated from HCC and have stayed local. Griffin, Monson, McCollum and McElroy each spoke about the first time they experienced racism and they each remembered their first introduction to the “N-word.”

“I asked my father what it meant, and he wanted to know where I heard that. I said at school,” Monson recalled. “Then he asked me what I did when they said that. I told him I started looking

around ‘cause I didn’t know what it was. He told me that’s what they think I am, and he said, ‘It means ignorant, and it definitely isn’t you.’”

McElroy spoke of growing up on Main Street, and one day he was playing with his sister and neighborhood friends when a group of new kids walked by. They were white and pointed at their group and started saying racial slurs and throwing things at them. McElroy spoke of his mother being a preacher’s daughter, and that he was raised by the Bible, and is typically a peacemaker. Though as he was telling his friends not to react, one child threw a brick at his head and that’s when he and his group started to defend themselves. These are important stories to remember, said McElroy, because they didn’t happen too long ago.

While many of the panelists could remember instances of racial slurs in school, they mostly recalled being ignored — not picked on but not noticed, either. Some explained that they didn’t face much outright racism, but that teachers and educators would steer black kids to trade schools, or assume that black kids were not likely to succeed academically.

McElroy recalled teaching at Street School, a converted factory on Race Street that served as a last-chance option for teens who had dropped out of the public schools. Westbrook spoke of dropping out of school because she couldn’t handle the way other kids treated her, but that she went to Street School and was able to receive her GED the same year she was supposed to graduate.

Monson spoke of being one of only six black kids in her graduating class in 1966, and her oldest daughter graduated in 1996 with only six or seven black kids.

‘A treasure chest’

Slocumb said the people she interviewed were a testament to what life in Holyoke used to be like. She referred to Griffin as the “Holyoke historian” because of how much he recalls about the city’s past, and the many artifacts his family has preserved.

Griffin, for his part, praised Slocumb.

“I was very happy to work with her

— Slocumb — on this because having lived through a lot of this period of time, I felt it was very important, because there have been a lot of changes and some are good and some are bad,” Griffin said. “There was a DVD that came out about the history of Holyoke and one thing I noted while watching it was that, while it covers a lot of different things, it does not cover the black impact in Holyoke. I felt it very important that people understood that, because we’ve been here for a long time, we’ve had an impact on the city and people need to know it.”

“To me it feels like opening up a treasure chest,” McCollum said about her

role in the project, and seeing the completed Reliquary of Blackness on display at Wistariahurst.

The exhibit is on display at the Wistariahurst Museum, with sections on loan to the Holyoke Community College Library, and the New Africa House at UMass-Amherst. Slocumb said she’s trying to have the sections of the exhibit displayed at American International College because of its large gallery space, either in the spring or fall semester. She is also working on a grant to create a traveling exhibit that institutions can “sign out” from Wistariahurst and display at their location for a time.



Panelists Emikan Sudan a.k.a James McElroy, seated, and Jacqueline Westbrook speak at a Black History Month panel at Holyoke Community College on Wednesday. Photos by Shelby Macri



From left, historian Erika Slocumb sits on a panel with her Holyoke oral history subjects Trudy Monson, Dian McCollum and Doug Griffin.

Give up your tribe for Lent

This is the time of year when churches talk about what Jesus Christ gave up — his life — to benefit humanity. What will you give up?

For traditional Christians, Ash Wednesday this week was the start of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer, self-examination and self-denial leading up to commemorations of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

As part of their observance, many Christians choose something to “give up” during Lent — usually something material, and often something that’s unhealthy anyway, such as candy or alcohol or tobacco. Foregoing a favorite indulgence can be difficult, and cutting out a vice can improve one’s health, but in the wider array of personal behaviors one can give up, there are harder habits to break, and greater improvements to be found.

Rather than — or in addition to — boosting one person’s wellbeing, why not make a sacrifice that will contribute to the health of our society, our democracy, and our future?

Give up your tribe.

America has made remarkable progress tearing down the old distinctions that divided us. Distrust and prejudice among genders, races, economic classes, religions and geographic regions is less of a factor now than at any time in our nation’s history. That’s not to say these prejudices have been eliminated, nor to suggest that we shouldn’t continue to fight them. But we’ve made remarkable progress.

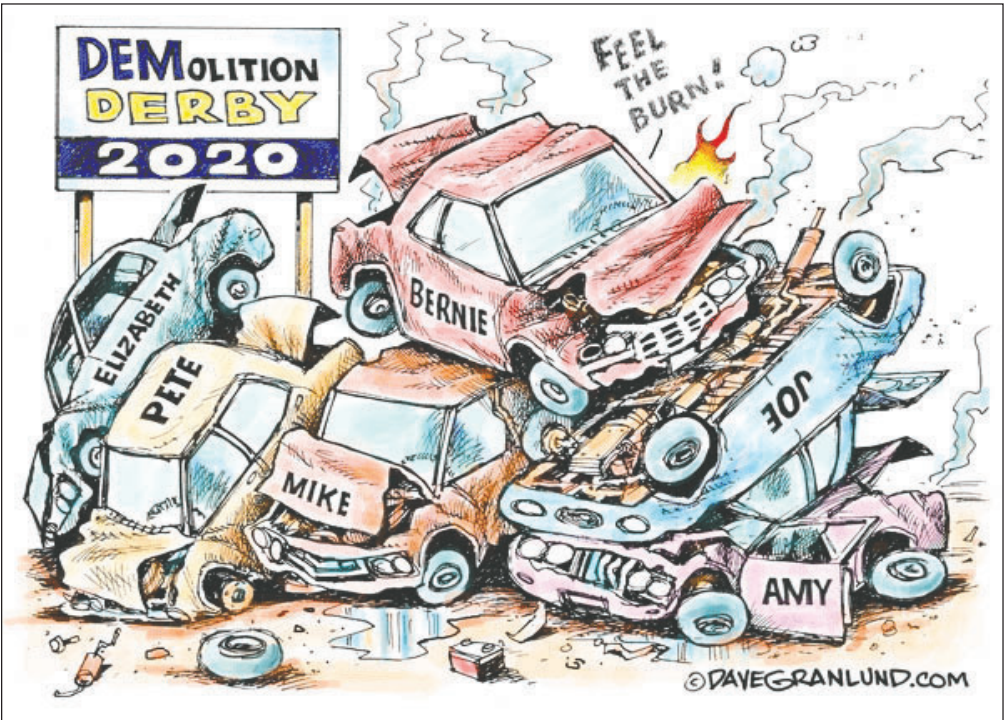
One form of prejudice and intolerance is sharply on the rise, however, and it threatens the core of our community. Even as our physical communities have become more integrated, the anonymity of the Internet and the fragmentation of media have led to an intellectual segregation — a self-sorting of Americans into virtual tribes of like-thinking individuals, choosing to associate mainly with those who hold similar political and cultural opinions, and — this is the worst part — increasingly intolerant of those who disagree.

Mainstream Democrats speak of mainstream Republicans (and vice versa) as not merely misguided, but evil. Republicans seek to destroy Democrats (and vice versa), rather than trying to convince them. The extremes of both parties look on their moderate wings not as allies but as dangerous traitors. Politics has become not a debate but a war. We try to win battles instead of understanding each other.

This primitive tribal behavior is killing our democracy. Give it up.

This Lent — or this political season, if you prefer — give up the satisfying self-righteousness of the tribal warrior. Listen to a rival’s opinion rather than just waiting for

See LENT, page 7



Get a head start on perennial planting

This week I will sow my first seeds of the growing season.

No, it is not time to plant your tomatoes, or even your peppers. It is the perfect time, however, to sow the seeds of your favorite perennial flowers. And if you must plant a vegetable or two, onions and leeks both welcome a head start indoors. It’s best to look up the germination requirements of the perennials you would like to start. The recommendations here are for those considered “easy,” without the need of any special pre-treatments.

For seasoned seed-starters, the following will be a bit of a refresher. Those that are “green” to the indoor seed-starting scene, take note: following these guidelines will nearly guarantee successful seedlings. It’s true...no more lanky seedlings, or seedlings that fall flat nearly as soon as they pop through the soil.

Remember the seed starting mix I spoke of awhile back? If not, a blend of finely milled peat moss or coir with some tiny chunks of vermiculite to hold water is my “soil” of choice for starting seeds indoors. It is essentially sterile, free of pathogens and weed seeds. A day before you plan to sow your seeds, dump some of the soil into a clean bucket and add water. Mix thoroughly with a gloved hand and let it sit until you are ready to use it. This extra step will eliminate any dry pockets that could wick water away from your seeds.

Once you are ready to sow, gather clean, sterilized containers. Used salad containers, top and all, work great, as do those that mushrooms come in; just be sure to make drainage holes in the bottom. Using a nail to make a small hole helps. Fill your container with moistened seed starting mix and tap it on a



hard surface to settle the soil. Add more and repeat, so that the mix is about a half-inch from the top of the container. Firm the soil with a clean hand or pot bottom. Take a pot label and make shallow rows in the soil about two inches apart from one another.

As a general rule, seed that can be handled with your fingers can be inserted into the furrow without touching one another then covered slightly. Those that are tiny should be sown on the soil surface. Here is a trick to space small seeds: Fold an index card and drop some seed into the fold. Swish it back and forth to spread them out evenly. While holding the index card over the indent, gently tap it. Seeds will pop out nicely spaced from one another. When all your seeds are sown, label the containers and put them in a tray. Top with a clear plastic humidity dome or tented bag as this will help prevent the soil from drying out. Salad containers that come with a top make it easy. Folks often wonder why this step is necessary. Understanding the process of germination helps. Seeds must be kept moist so that the seed coat will soften and crack. Then the root and shoot will emerge.

Now, it is time to place your tray on heating cables designed for seed starting. Seeds will sprout faster and more consistently if you use them. They aren’t exactly inexpensive, but will last for decades if used for only a few weeks each season. For those of you who will start a flat or two of plants, save yourself the expense and find a spot in your house that stays in the 70-degree range. I have set plants on a shelf above the radiator, on top of the freezer, and even close to the woodstove. All

See GARDEN, page 8

HOLYOKE
theSun

The Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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A Quote

OF NOTE

“We’ve been here
for a long time,
we’ve had an
impact on the city
and people need
to know it.”

Doug Griffin

Letters to the Editor Policy

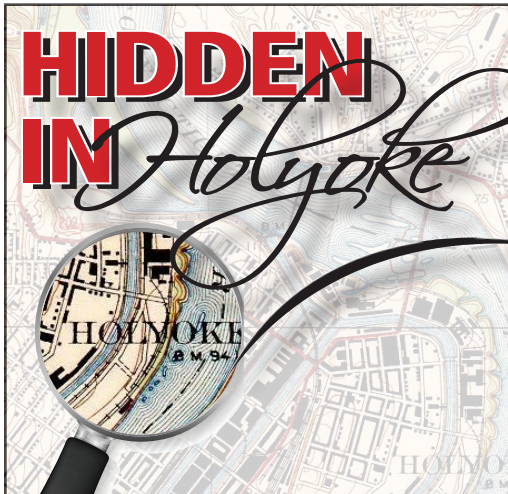
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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



Each week, *The Holyoke Sun* will feature a photo of a distinctive place, landmark, sculpture, sign or other recognizable object located somewhere in the city.

Think you know what or where it is? Readers are encouraged to submit their guesses to “Hidden in Holyoke” via email to TheSun@Turley.com. In order to qualify for the weekly contest, entries must be received by Wednesday at noon for inclusion into Friday’s edition. Please include your full name with your guess in an email to TheSun@turley.com. If more than one correct answer is received, the names of all those who submitted guesses will be listed. For more information, contact *The Holyoke Sun* at 413-283-8398.



There were no correct guesses for last week’s “Hidden in Holyoke.” It will be reprinted in a future week.



Yoga studio working with county inmates

SPRINGFIELD — Offenders serving time with the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department will be the first to benefit from a \$200 mini-grant from the Seed to Flower Fund for Yoga Service. The grant will help yoga teacher Johanna Hammer, who has been offering recovery yoga at the sheriff’s Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center in Springfield, reach more people in this year.

Thanks to a partnership with Breathing Space Yoga & Mindfulness Studio in Holyoke, the Sheriff’s Department has been offering yoga classes to offenders at the minimum-security Pre-Release Center in Ludlow. This builds upon the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction and Stress, Anger and Violence Reduction classes also offered at the main county jail in Ludlow.

The objective of the programs is to enhance self-control and reduce



Pictured from left are Anthony Scibelli, assistant superintendent of the Western Massachusetts Recovery and Wellness Center; Dori Digenti, owner of Breathing Space Yoga & Mindfulness Studio in Holyoke; Johanna Hammer, a yoga teacher volunteering at the Sheriff’s Department; and Sara Costa and Andrew Teasley, both from the Sheriff’s Department.

Submitted photo

unconscious reactions to situations by helping incarcerated men and women become more mindful, self-aware and engaged, to reduce the chances they

will return to jail.

“Many people in our care have never been taught to pause before reacting, or to reflect on the present moment, and these programs bridge the gap there,” said Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi. “Based on our pre-and-post-testing of offenders and Section 35 clients, we’ve seen very positive results from our mindfulness-based programming, and we’re appreciative of this partnership and the expansion of yoga to our facility in Springfield.”

The Seed to Flower Fund, a donor-advised fund managed by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, is intended to meet the demand for recovery yoga classes. Recovery yoga practice has been shown to relieve stress, chronic pain, anxiety, and depression, and to promote empathy, reduce reactivity, and support emotional stability.

Apply now for microenterprise grants

The city’s Office for Community Development recently announced that it is accepting applications for its Microenterprise Grant Program. Eligible business owners may receive up to \$10,000 in grant funds to develop or grow their businesses.

Applications may be obtained by calling or emailing the Holyoke Office for Community Development at 413-322-5610 or martinsj@holyoke.org.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, own a for-profit business located in Holyoke, be current on all city taxes and fees, have five or fewer employees and meet low or moderate income household guidelines. Grantees will have to provide

a 10 percent collateral match on their grant funds and complete business training or mentoring.

Certain types of businesses, such as adult entertainment, marijuana, and pawn shops, do not qualify for grants. For more information on the grants, including a full list of eligibility requirements, contact the Office for Community Development.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling, first-come basis until all grant funds are awarded.

The Microenterprise Grant Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program.

Disability commissioner takes office

Robert Edwardson was sworn in Wednesday as the newest member of the Holyoke Disability Commission.

He said one of his priorities on the commission will be to help people with disabilities register to vote. He noted that those with disabilities can vote by absentee ballot in all elections, and “an educated voter is a good voter.”

Edwards, 68, is a Longmeadow resident and an accomplished advocate on behalf of individuals with brain injuries, like himself. Over the past 30 years, he has helped pass laws mandat-

ing bicycle helmets for children 16 and under, and motorcycle helmet laws, as well as helping people with brain injuries access the services they need.

He is also an active student pursuing his HiSet at the Success Center in Holyoke. This is where he took a class called “Science of Self,” where he worked to identify the steps necessary to reach his goals, which included civic engagement. Edwards and his teacher, Lhea Destromp, searched for opportunities together and found the commission position listed on Holyoke.org.

DIRECTOR, from page 1

try to create the best environment for its membership and future members. The Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce is currently celebrating its 130th year as a recognized Chamber.

“I am excited to continue my work with the community in my new role here at the Chamber,” she said. “I look forward to learning from our businesses firsthand what the Chamber can do to ensure that they are thriving in our community. I want the Chamber to be a central location for business resources for not only our members, but for all new businesses starting up in Holyoke. I want folks to know that we are here for them the entire step of the way.”

Marion, who lives in Holyoke, has nearly 10 years of experience working alongside the community and has a proven track record in program development and fundraising. She previously worked for local nonprofit Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen, where she successfully directed the organization by increasing their revenue and program develop-

ment. Marion holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Bay Path College. She began her new role on Feb. 24.

“We are thrilled to welcome Andréa and are excited and eager to see how her leadership will bring expanded success to the Chamber,” said Kevin McCaffrey, chairman of the Chamber’s Board of Directors and director of government and community relations at Mount Holyoke College. “Holyoke has many opportunities to thrive and we are confident that, with her record of success in the community, Andréa will play a formative role in working with businesses and other partners to make Holyoke a stronger and better community for all. Andréa is the right person to guide the Greater Holyoke Chamber at this time, to build new partnerships and to nurture existing relationships.”

Marion will be formally introduced as the Chamber’s new leader at its annual St. Patrick’s Day breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 18, at the Log Cabin on Easthampton Road. For more information or to reserve tickets, call 413-534-3376.

LENT, from page 6

an opening for an ad-hominem attack. Try to convert an opponent instead of defeating him or her. Acknowledge every time that we are all Americans first and that the incredible diversity of America results in a bewildering diversity of experience and opinion. For that matter, we are all humans — and none of us is closer to the divine, or closer to perfection, than any other.

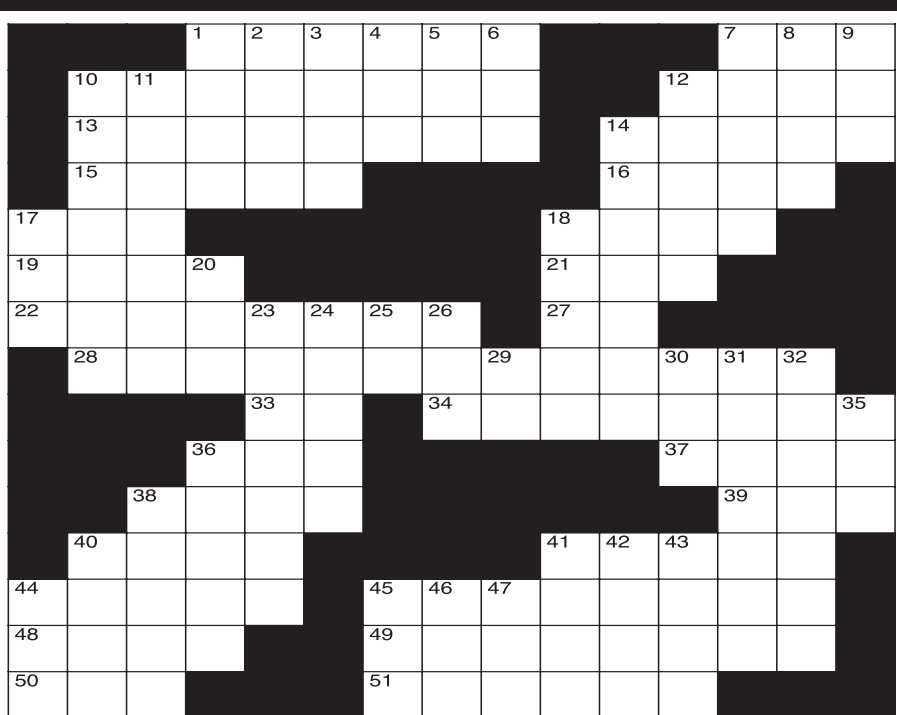
The man who made the first Lenten sacrifice, 2,000 years ago, also wanted his followers to give up their tribes, to see the humanity in their ene-

mies, to treat others with equal respect and charity.

Not everyone believes in his story, or worships at his church. But the message of kindness and empathy doesn’t require a particular god or catechism. It can be found in religions, philosophies and ethical systems from cultures all around the world.

Truth and righteousness are not the sole possessions of any political party. Give up the tribes. Return to a true community — our city, our nation, our planet.

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to thesun@turley.com.



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Stain one's hands
7. Subdivision
10. A passage to be performed slow
12. Invests in little enterprises
13. Medians
14. Member of the giraffe family
15. Makes official
16. Choose in an election
17. Hill or rocky peak
18. Member of an ancient Iranian people
19. Crest of a hill
21. Small, faint constellation
22. Cultivated from crops that yield oil
27. The ancient Egyptian sun god
28. Hollywood tough guy
33. Chinese drums
34. Merits
36. Indicates center
37. Increases motor speed
38. Mentally fit
39. BBQ favorite
40. Wings
41. Female parents
44. Marks left from wounds
45. Soften by soaking in liquid
48. They resist authority (slang)
49. Formats
50. Many subconsciousnesses
51. Vogues
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Mental object
2. Blackbird
3. Undergarments
4. Old cloth
5. One from Utah
6. Greek goddess of the dawn
7. Become less intense
8. Developed to readiness
9. Defunct phone company
10. About Freemason
11. Taking everything into account
12. Famed Czech engineer
14. Impress into silence
17. Boxing term
18. Marketplaces
20. Pounds per square inch
23. Locomotives
24. Short musical composition
25. Football position (abbr.)
26. Heavyhearted
29. Denotes particular region
30. Famed NHLer
31. Ingested too much
32. Formulates
35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
36. Broad, shallow craters
38. Thick cuts
40. Breezed through
41. Breakfast is one
42. "Rule, Britannia" composer
43. Periodicals (slang)
44. Indian title of respect
45. More (Spanish)
46. Creation
47. A loud utterance

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 13

Artist exhibits images of Americana at Taber Gallery

Images of dolls, guns, antique furniture, clothing, yearbooks, toys and more comprise a new exhibit by Greenfield painter Kelly Popoff in the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College.

“At Home with Our Histories” opened this week and runs through Thursday, March 26, with Popoff hosting an opening reception and gallery talk at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 4.

According to Popoff, “At Home with Our Histories” is a series of works that examines images of Americana. The collection is “perhaps as an instinctive response to try to make sense of our current culture by looking back,” she says in her artist’s statement, “or maybe to find connections that may explain why our history seems so present and unresolved. This series reflects my own, personal histories and a societal, American history. Through my work, I acknowledge that the social problems of today are deeply rooted in our past. Through this dialogue with history, I hope to contribute to the redirection of social, psychological and spiritual aspects of the future.”

The Taber Art Gallery is off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the Donahue Building on the campus at 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke. It is open to the public for free 9 a.m. to 6



“At Home with Our Histories,” a solo show by Greenfield artist Kelly Popoff, is now on display in the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College.

Submitted photo

p.m. Mondays through Thursdays during regular school sessions, or by appointment.

Popoff was born in Akron, Ohio, and lives and works in Greenfield. She holds a bachelor’s degree in fine arts in painting and ceramics from Miami University and a master’s degree in fine arts in painting from the University of North Carolina.

Her recent honors include a Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist

Fellowship in painting; the Clowes Fund Fellowship and Residency, Vermont Studio Center, in 2019; Millay Colony Fellow in 2018; the Artist’s Resource Trust Fellowship and Residency, Vermont Studio Center, in 2017; the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Grant in 2017; a Promise Award from the Sustainable Arts Foundation in 2016; and a Finalist Award from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship in

Painting in 2016.

Recent solo shows include “At Home with Our Histories” at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, “O Children” at the Herter Gallery at the University of Massachusetts, and “Rock on Doily” at the Augusta Savage Gallery at the University of Massachusetts.

For more information, contact Amy Johnquest, director of the Taber Art Gallery, at 413-552-2614.

GARDEN, from page 6

will work.

Once seeds have germinated it is time to take the seedlings off the bottom heat and provide them with direct light for 14 hours a day. The easiest way to achieve this is purchase a shop light outfitted with two fluorescent bulbs. If you position the plants just inches away from the lights you will produce the stockiest seedlings possible. I have my lights on a chain suspended from the ceiling where

I can raise and lower them to accommodate growing plants.

Good luck with your seed starting endeavors this upcoming week.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

CORONAVIRUS, from page 1

Symptoms of the infection include fever, cough and shortness of breath, and in severe cases, pneumonia, or fluid in the lungs.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention always recommends everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth

- Stay home when sick
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe

The city of Holyoke and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health are working closely with the CDC to learn more and will provide updated information and guidance as they become available.

In the spirit of the festivities surrounding the 2020 St. Patrick's Parade
The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties
Invite the Public to attend the
ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST
Sunday, March 15, 2020 - Mass at 8:00 A.M.
at St. Patrick's Chapel of St. Jerome's Parish Holyoke
Breakfast served at the Wherehouse? Holyoke after Mass
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Featured Speakers: Former Boston Police Commissioner William B. Evans
Presentation of the 2020 Hibernian Christian Charity Award to:
Sr. Joan Magnani, SSJ, Executive Director of the Bureau of Exceptional Children and Adults at Jericho of Holyoke
For Reservations by March 13th Contact:
Attorney John J. Driscoll @ 413-534-0445
Tickets are \$25.00 per person

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prime **SPRINGFIELD NEWS 3** **The Republican** **MHC**



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Knights make playoffs, edged in finale



Photos by
Lisa Thomas-DuFresne

Left, William Cruz tries to dribble around his opponent. Below left, Jael Cabrera gets ready to hand the ball off to a teammate. Below center, Dereck Carattini makes his way down the court for the Knights. Below right, Jesus Ibarra attempts to box out to get a rebound.

The Holyoke High School boys basketball team traveled up to Northampton for its regular season finale against the Blue Devils. The game was close almost the entire way, but Northampton managed to outlast Holyoke at the end 73-70. Brian Cristobal had a big game with 23 points. Jael Cabrera and William Cruz had 13 points each. With the loss, Holyoke would finish the regular season at 11-9. The loss also hurt Holyoke a bit in terms of their seeding for the Western Massachusetts Division 1 Tournament. The Knights must now travel to Commerce High School on Friday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. A win could have netted Holyoke the No. 4 seed and led to the Knights hosting Commerce.

Email us your sports news and photos:
sports@turley.com



Final vote for state tournament looms this week

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

It comes down to a meeting scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28 at 9:45 a.m. to decide whether the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will move forward with a proposal to have a statewide postseason tournament, and eliminate the sectional tournaments.

The vote will take place at special meeting of the Board of Directors at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School beginning at 9:45 a.m.

The meeting will be held for representatives from the 380 members schools, all of which will have a vote on the proposal.

For Western and Central Massachusetts, the statewide tournament proposal would create a 32-team state tournament

with additional teams vying to qualify by a .500 record.

It would eliminate the sectional tournaments that currently take place in most sports.

Overall, the proposal has seen some resistance from many athletic directors in Western Mass., who believe the statewide proposal favors the eastern part of the state.

Another contentious issue is how the teams will be ranked. Because of the diversity of teams and leagues in Western Massachusetts, the region has used the Walker system for many years. It factors elements like wins, wins against other qualifying teams, and strength of schedule, applying point values to teams in certain leagues.

The Western Mass. tournament, starting next year, and then state tournaments, if they

are voted through for the fall 2021, would be ranked using MaxPreps.

One of many questions brought up during various informational meetings and discussions about the proposal is how exactly MaxPreps will rank the teams. However the rankings system is not made very clear. Coaches and athletic directors will be required to enter win-loss and result information to the MaxPreps website, but the formula to determine rankings is "proprietary" and is not being disclosed publicly, leaving athletic directors with questions about whether the system will be fair to teams throughout the state.

Unlike the eastern side of the state, many teams in

See *TOURNAMENT*, page 11

Cougars reach playoffs with win

HOLYOKE – Men's basketball won two more regional away games this past week, making it three straight victories to close out the regular season. With the wins, the Cougars clinch a postseason playoff spot, qualifying for the New England Championship Tournament. Holyoke defeated Northern Essex CC 79-76 on Tuesday before cruising past local rival Springfield Technical CC 97-77 on Thursday.

Sophomore forward Michael Castillo (Northampton, MA / Northampton HS) has attained a remarkable achievement, having scored his 1000th career point. He reached 1000 in Thursday's game, becoming just the third HCC men's basket-


ball player in history to accomplish the feat. Castillo became a member of the Cougar's 500-Point Club when he scored 532 points as a freshman, and so far this season he has racked up 469 points. Castillo scored 24 points in Thursday's win which included shooting 5 for 5 from the free-throw line. Jequan Rogers (Springfield, MA / Sabes HS) had a major accomplishment of his own in the win over STCC, registering an elusive triple-double. Rogers led the Cougars in scoring on the night, tallying 26 points while grabbing 10 rebounds and dishing out 10 assists. Moashaun Alvarado (Springfield, MA

See *COUGARS*, page 11

Western Mass. Basketball Bracketology

Editor's Note: These brackets represent Turley Sports picks for the upcoming basketball tournaments. They are for the enjoyment of our readers. Please play along and compare your brackets to ours and see if you can pick the winners, too.


DIVISION 1 BOYS

Quarter Finals		Final Four	Finals	Champions
1	Central (19-1)	Central	Central	 Central
4	Commerce (14-6)			
5	Holyoke (11-9)	Holyoke		
2	Putnam (15-5)	Putnam	Putnam	
3	Sci-Tech (16-4)			
6	Minnechaug (12-8)	Sci-Tech		

Division 1 Boys

Central had a bounce-back season after losing a few games last season. The Golden Eagles lost just once this season. Holyoke will reach the semifinals, but will fall to Central. Putnam and Sci-Tech will go at it in the other semifinal, with Putnam prevailing. Central beats Putnam in the finals.


DIVISION 2 BOYS

Quarter Finals		Final Four	Finals	Champions
1	Chicopee (16-4)	Chicopee	Chicopee	 Chicopee
4	Quabbin (15-5)			
5	Tantasqua (13-7)	Tantasqua		
2	Longmeadow (13-7)	Longmeadow	Taconic	
7	Ludlow (10-10)			
3	Taconic (16-4)	Taconic		
6	Belchertown (9-11)			

Division 2 Boys

Chicopee continues to get better and earns the top seed in the D2 tourney. We think this year will be the Pacers' year, led by 1,000-point scorer Kobe Parker. Ludlow and Belchertown will reach tournament for the first time in a while. But both will fall to more experienced playoff teams.


DIVISION 1 GIRLS

Quarter Finals		Final Four	Finals	Champions
1	Central (12-7)	Central Holyoke	Central	 Central
4	Westfield (11-9)			
5	Holyoke (10-10)			
2	Minnechaug (16-4)	Minnechaug Chicopee	Chicopee	
3	Chicopee (14-6)			
		Chicopee		

Division 1 Girls

Central is tough to knock off, but Minnechaug managed it earlier this season. But Central has come along of late. Minnechaug had a strong season, but the injury of a top player could hurt in the playoffs. We pick Chicopee to come out and challenge Central for the title.


DIVISION 2 GIRLS

Quarter Finals		Final Four	Finals	Champions
1	Northampton (14-6)	Northampton Tantasqua	Northampton	 Taconic
8	Pittsfield (10-10)			
4	E. Longmeadow (13-7)			
5	Tantasqua (15-5)			
2	Longmeadow (13-7)	Longmeadow Taconic	Taconic	
7	Amherst (15-5)			
3	Taconic (18-2)			
6	Quabbin (15-5)			

Division 2 Girls

Northampton will be upset in the finals by Taconic, which plays a Berkshire schedule and won 18 games this season. Quabbin and Tantasqua fall in the earlier rounds.

DIVISION 3 BOYS

Round 1		Quarter Finals		Final Four		Finals		Champions		Finals		Final Four		Quarter Finals		Round 1	
1	Narragansett (18-2)	Narragansett		Mt. Greylock		Wahconah		<div> Frontier</div>		Frontier		South Hadley		Sabis		2 Sabis (12-8)	
8	Greenfield (13-7)	Mt. Greylock										South Hadley		7 South Hadley (14-6)		10 Mahar (10-10)	
9	Mt. Greylock (14-6)																
4	Wahconah (15-5)	Wahconah										Frontier		3 Frontier (16-4)		14 Athol (9-11)	
13	Hoosac (10-10)																
5	Renaissance (16-4)	Renaissance		Wahconah								Frontier		Monument Mtn		6 Monument Mtn (15-5)	
12	Murdock (14-6)																
<div>Division 3 Boys Back in Division 3, South Hadley will make some noise in this year's tournament after a bounce-back season. But Frontier and Wahconah will make the finals with Frontier pulling through in the finals of the D3 tournament.</div>																	
DIVISION 3 GIRLS																	

Division 3 Boys

Back in Division 3, South Hadley will make some noise in this year's tournament after a bounce-back season. But Frontier and Wahconah will make the finals with Frontier pulling through in the finals of the D3 tournament.

DIVISION 3 GIRLS

Round 1		Quarter Finals		Final Four		Finals		Champions		Finals		Final Four		Quarter Finals		Round 1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
1	Wahconah (16-4)	Wahconah		Wahconah		Frontier		Wahconah		Hoosac		Hoosac		Hampshire		Hampshire		2	Hampshire (13-7)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
8	Frontier (14-6)																	9	Palmer (10-10)	4	Greenfield (15-5)	5	Sabis (11-9)	12	Easthampton (12-8)	7	South Hadley (11-9)	10	Mahar (12-8)	3	Hoosac (14-6)	6	Granby (10-10)	11	Mt. Greylock (10-10)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Division 3 Girls

South Hadley is no longer the top seed, paving the way for Wahconah and Hoosac to make the finals without much difficulty this year. We pick Wahconah over Greenfield in a competitive semifinal. Hoosac, with a win over Division 1 Minnechaug, should win the final.

Webb tournament set to take place in March

CHICOPEE — This year marks the 35th year Kevin Vann has enjoyed coaching youth basketball—and for 16 of those years, he has provided young people in Greater Springfield and Northern Connecticut with the chance to play in a competitive tournament.

As the founder of the George Webb Memorial Basketball Tournament, which supports the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, Vann was proud to announce this year to sponsors and participants that the event topped the \$200,000 fundraising mark in 2019.

“Thank you for standing with me over the past 16 years, supporting the kids of the club,” he said. “I have a deep passion for basketball, yet my 35 years of coaching pales in comparison to the 108 years that the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee has been there every day for the now 358 boys and girls of this city. They are children who desperately need encouragement, companionship, challenge and opportunity to help them grow into responsible and respected human beings.”

The largest basketball tournament of its kind, the 15-day event tips off on March 13 at the club, ending on March 28. Each year, the tourney draws hundreds of spectators to watch more than

40 teams of boys and girls play.

Vann founded the George Webb Memorial Basketball Tournament in 2005 to honor his late friend, George Webb, who died of cancer at age 52 in 2004. A basketball player who shot hoops at the club on Tuesday evenings, Webb rarely lost a game, and, Vann said, “When he did, he showed true sportsmanship to whoever he was playing against.”

Vann and his business, The Vann Group of Springfield, a professional services outsourcing company, have sponsored the tournament since its start. And it has been held at the club it supports since the beginning as well.

“The George Webb Basketball Tournament embodies the values of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee,” Vann said. “It’s an even competition for teams of boys and girls aged 8 to 13 who have varying abilities as ball players.”

For the second year in a row, Daishany Miller of Chicopee was named the club’s Youth of the Year. To achieve the title of Youth of the Year, a club member must embody the values of leadership and service, academic excellence, and healthy lifestyles. The Youth of the Year serves as a role model for other young people in the club and as a repre-

sentative to the community.

Drawn to investigate the club in 2014, Miller, 19, soon adopted it as a second home and learned how to thrive as a leader. “It takes strength to fit in and courage to stand out,” Miller said. “The club is there for me and encourages me to take the steps I need to strive to be a better version of myself.”

Vann said the tournament has allowed thousands of young people to experience the safe haven that is the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, play a sport and develop values that will last them a lifetime.

The club has a mission to fill the gap between school and home. According to a national organization called the Afterschool Alliance, every day, 362,312 children in Massachusetts leave school with nowhere to go with an adult present.

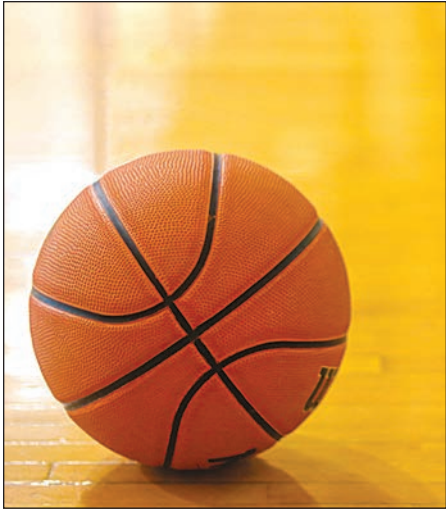
The club offers activities, resources, supportive relationships with peers and adults and programs that can be life-changing, and it served 1,802 young people last year; 358 were members, and the other 1,444 were served through community outreach programs.

The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee has two locations in town and is staffed by 30 adults and 50 volunteers.

Seventy-one percent of those who

are nurtured at the club are 12 and younger; the others are teenagers. Of the total served, 69 percent are in minority ethnic groups and 32 percent are in single-parent households.

For more information about the tournament, visit bgcchicopee.org/george-webb-memorial-basketball-tournament/. For information on sponsorship opportunities, visit georgewebbtournament.com or contact Ruth Griggs at (413) 727-3354 or email her at ruth@rccomms.com.



TOURNAMENT, from page 9

Western Mass. are disbursed into leagues with teams in multiple divisions. The Walker system takes that format into account.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:45 p.m. The MIAA will hear a final presentation from the Tournament Management Committee and will hear

from speakers. According to the press release from the MIAA, speakers will have limited time to speak, and wish for points not to be repeated to keep the discussion moving.

A final vote is expected to take place just before 11 a.m. Each member school will have one vote, which will come from the member school’s principal or their designee, an athletic director in some cases.

COUGARS, from page 9

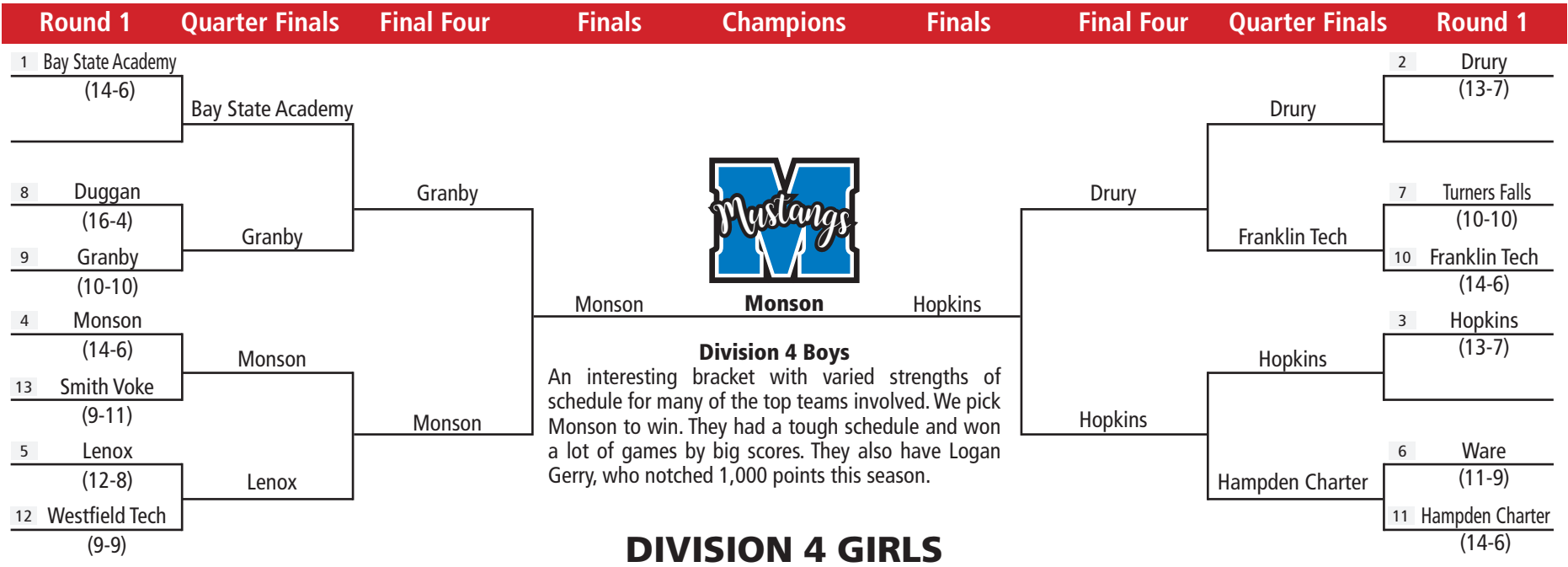
/ Sci-Tech HS) was dominant in both of this week’s games for Holyoke, recording a double-double in each contest. Alvarado had 29 points and 18 rebounds on Tuesday and 22 points with 12 boards on Thursday.

The Cougars end the regular season with a regional record of 12-8 and

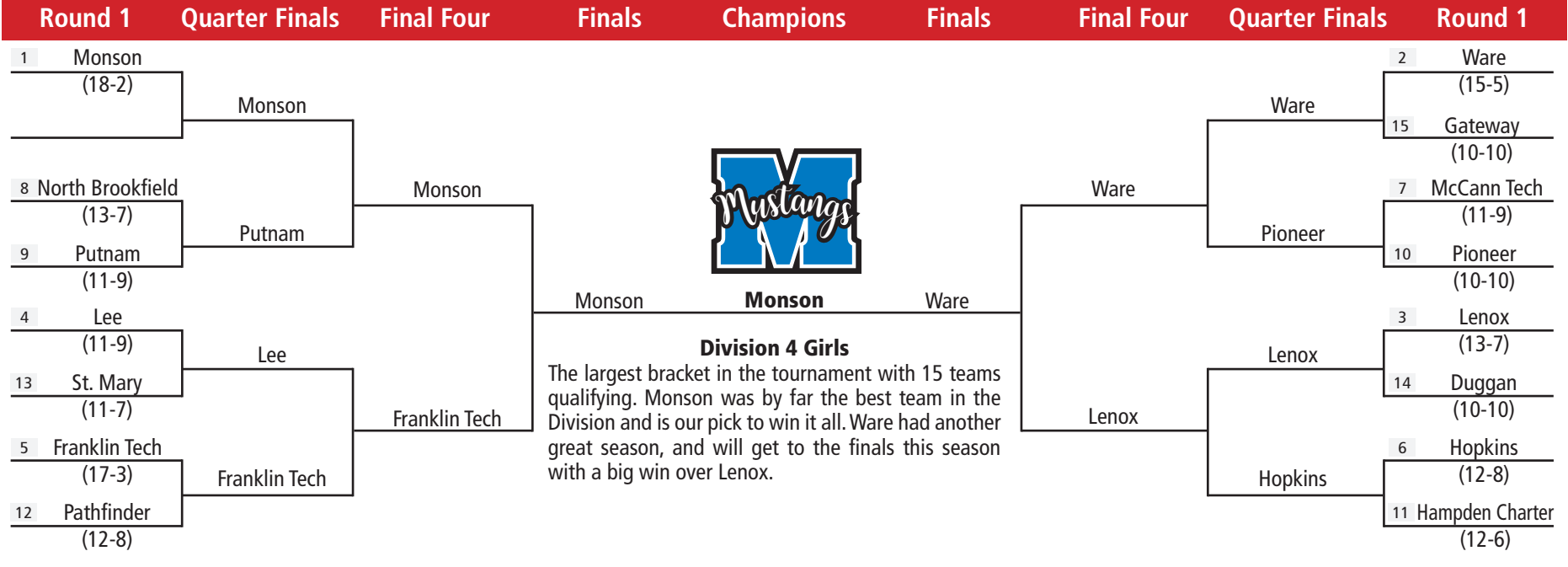
an overall record of 12-11. Their dozen wins are the most by a Cougar men’s basketball team in over a decade. Early next week, Holyoke will learn who their regional championship first-round opponent will be. They could play a post-season game as early as Wednesday, Feb. 26 with the New England championship game taking place on Sunday, March 1.

Western Mass. Basketball Bracketology

DIVISION 4 BOYS



DIVISION 4 GIRLS





ONGOING

ALL SAINTS LENTEN LUNCHESES at All Saints Church, 7 Woodbridge St., South Hadley. Homemade soups, sandwiches, lobster rolls and desserts will be served every Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., during Lent (ending April 3). Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations.

ST. PATRICK’S LENTEN LUNCHESES at the St. Patrick’s Church Social Center, 30 Main St., South Hadley. Lunches will be held each Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., through April 3. For a menu or to place a take-out order, call 413-427-4823. Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations.

MR. PICKLE AND FRIENDS STORY HOUR at 10 a.m. every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., Holyoke. “Mr. Pickle” (Holyoke resident Danielle Pikul) and other drag performers read books and lead dress-up, singing, dancing and other family-friendly fun. Free. For information or to register, call 413-420-8105.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, a 12-step, non-profit organization, meets Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 605 South St., Holyoke. Enter the door off the driveway. More info: 413-783-4198 or www.oawmass.org.

POKEMON FAN CLUB meets at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St., every Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Teen Room. The club plays Pokemon cards, games and Pokemon Go, as well as other card games like Yu-Gi-Oh and Magic: The Gathering; tournaments for prizes, trading, drawing Pokemon art, and snacks. More info and registration: 413-420-8101.

RSVP SEEKS VOLUNTEERS for nonprofit organizations in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. Adults 55 and older who want to share skills and experience in their spare time can contact RSVP for a great volunteer position, some travel and insurance benefits, and personal matching. Contact Patricia Sicard at psicard@hcg-ma.org or 413-387-4558, ext. 1.

Saturday, Feb. 29

DREAMS AND DEFIANCE concert at Wistariahurst, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke, 7-9 p.m.

The Pulse is a community calendar for Holyoke and neighboring communities. Free listings are available for non-commercial, non-political entertainment or educational events that are free to attend, or fundraisers that benefit a non-profit organization. Only events in Holyoke or one of its immediate bordering towns, or events that benefit an organization based in Holyoke, will be listed. Submitted items should be brief, with only time, date, location, activity explanation, and contact information, and may be edited for length and style. Items may be sent to thesun@turley.com, fax to 413-283-7107 or mail to The Holyoke Sun, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. The deadline for calendar listings is noon Monday for that Friday’s newspaper.

Songwriters and musician-activist-educators Pamela Means and Diana Alvarez will perform. Tickets are \$15, available at Wistariahurst.org or at the door.

Sunday, March 1

SOUP & SAINTS LUNCHEON at St. Theresa of Lisieux Church Hall, 9 E. Parkview Drive, South Hadley, 11:45 a.m. A free smorgasbord of homemade soups, bread, salad and desserts will be available, followed by a presentation at 1 p.m. titled “Heart Speaks to Heart.”

Monday, March 2

REPRESENT US MEETING at Greenfield Savings Bank, 325 King St., Northampton, 6-7:30 p.m. RepresentUS is a non-partisan group working for campaign finance reform and fighting government corruption to make our democracy stronger. All are welcome.

Tuesday, March 3

VOTING WORKSHOP at the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal St., South Hadley, 4 p.m. Free. Historical talks, a walking labyrinth and guided meditation will be offered to help voters make up their minds. More info: 413-538-5045.

Saturday, March 7

POLAR PLUNGE at Hampton Ponds State Park, 1048 North Road, Westfield, noon. Participants are asked to raise at least \$100, with all proceeds to benefit Special Olympics. More info: specialolympicsma.donordrive.com/event/westfieldplunge.

BIG BROADCAST in the Chapin Auditorium at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, 2-7:30 p.m. This is the 15th annual performance of the Jazz Ensembles at Mount Holyoke. Snow date is March 8. General admission tickets are \$25 for premium front and center seating, \$20 for regular seating, \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door for seniors, and \$10 for students. For online tickets, visit www.fineartscenter.com.

HOLYOKE ST. PATRICK’S PARADE TARTAN PARTY at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, 221 Appleton St., Holyoke, 2:30-5 p.m. Children will enjoy unlimited rides on the merry-go-round, face paint-

ing, snacks, crafts and a digital photo booth. Adults can purchase beer or wine and shop for Holyoke parade tartan merchandise. Admission is \$5 per person, or \$10 for a family.

CORNEBEEF SUPPER: The South Hadley Methodist Church will hold its annual Corned Beef Supper, featuring Dave’s highly acclaimed corned beef. There will also be cabbage, carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread and dessert. The cost is \$14, children 6 - 12 - \$5 and under 6 free. Takeout is available and while not required, reservations are encouraged. Call 532-0500 or 695-1212 and leave your name and the number of reservations.

Sunday, March 8

WINTER FARMERS MARKET final week on the first floor at the Holyoke Mall near Macy’s, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market offers a variety of fruits, vegetables, dairy products and crafts from local farms and vendors. HIP and EBT are accepted.

Friday, March 13

MARSHAL MANIA CONCERT at the Wherehouse?, 109 Lyman St., Holyoke, 8 p.m. (doors open 6:30). The Sighs will headline this fundraiser for the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade, with Holyoke’s own Ed Jackowski as the opening act. Tickets are \$20 per person at JeffWalsh127@gmail.com or 413-530-3944, or marshalamaniam2020.brownpapertickets.com.

Saturday, March 14

SATURDAY MORNING MUSIC PARTY AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST at Flywheel Arts Collective, Old Town Hall, 43 Main St., Easthampton, 10 a.m. to noon. Hilltown Families and Flywheel host this event with food, dancing (music by DJ Youthelectronix) and diversions for kids. The suggested donation is \$6 per person to benefit Flywheel.

IRISH NIGHT fundraiser at the Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Performance by Desmond Burke & Friends. Tickets \$45 per person and include a chance at a drawing for a trip to Ireland (need not be present to win). More info: Jacki Reardon, 413-536-7732 (leave a message) or JR080645@comcast.net.

SCHOOL, from page 1

improvements for students, taking them out of a building with windows that don’t open, no sprinkler system, limited natural light, and poor air quality. The school has a video of the current conditions at Peck available at vimeo.com/369219780.

“We had to prioritize one or the other. The recommendation is Peck School,” Zrike said.

The downside to the Peck proposal is that it’s estimated to be \$4.5 million more expensive to build than the Chestnut school, and would require the city to find an alternate location for Peck classrooms for up to two years while construction is underway. Zrike said that any plans about where the students would go for relocation is a discussion that will take place if the project is accepted by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

“We’re not even close to that conversation,” he said. “We have to go back through the whole process again. We’d have to have a new building committee and have those discussions.”

The previous estimate for the cost of a new Peck School was about \$70 million, which includes demolition costs of the current building. The letter states the city was slated to receive 57 percent of the November proposal reimbursed by the state, but that number could change by the time the new proposal makes its way through the MSBA process. Under the current reimbursement percentage, Holyoke taxpayers’ share of the project would be \$30.5 million.

By contrast, the estimated cost of a similarly sized

Chestnut Street middle school is \$62 million, with \$26 million of that coming from local coffers. The Chestnut site, currently a vacant lot, also does not require the city to find temporary space for Peck classrooms during the construction period.

Zrike also noted that any project that doesn’t go through the MSBA process is not eligible to have the state reimburse the demolition costs for current Peck. Reimbursement formula rates may also change by the time the proposal is ready, adding another factor that can alter the estimated costs.

“That reimbursement rate that we had for the first project is consistent for new construction projects across the state, because there’s an outdated reimbursement per square foot that doesn’t match what is necessary in order to build a building,” Zrike said. “We have architectural plans for the building at Peck previously. What we don’t know are the shifts in their reimbursement formula. We have to get accepted back into the pipeline. If we do, and when we do, those reimbursement rates could change.”

Zrike said the plan to submit one school building should keep the cost low enough that it will not require a debt exclusion vote. It would still have to be approved by the City Council.

“We might not have to go to a vote,” he said. “Eventually the City Council would have to approve the funding, if that’s the route we go. There’s no interest in going to the voters again. Obviously, we didn’t get the support for that.”

The council approving the statement of interest does not commit Holyoke to any funding for the project, or any architectural details. It’s the step needed for the

school system to return to the MSBA for consideration. The deadline for submitting an MSBA statement of interest is April 8.

“Then, the MSBA will consider our SOI. We are hopeful that the MSBA invites us to participate in the MSBA Core Program and at that point, Holyoke will decide whether to move forward with considering a new building project or not,” states the letter. “A new School Building Committee would then be formed, according to the rules of the MSBA. Last fall, many people in the community shared ideas on how to further reduce the cost of the building in order to increase the reimbursement rate from MSBA, and the new School Building Committee could carefully consider these suggestions.”

The letter is signed by Zrike; Anthony Soto, the schools’ chief of finance and operations; Whitney Anderson, maintenance administrator; and Erin Linville, chief of strategy and turnaround.

The City Council sent the letter to the Finance Committee. Zrike said it’s expected to be on the committee agenda early in March.

“I know there’s a lot of interest in new school construction or improving our facilities from the community, councilors, and school committee members, but obviously people, and rightfully so, are concerned about the financial situation,” Zrike said. “I can’t speak for them until the conversation is had.”

The schools’ proposal includes a promise by the schools to return \$500,000 per year as a payment for city services to the city’s general budget, to partially offset the annual cost of bonding the project. This represents half of the \$1 million annual payment promised as part of the two-school proposal in 2019.

Campus Notes are compiled from school press releases and parent submissions. To share news of a Holyoke student's achievements, ask the school's press office to send an email to thesun@turley.com.

HCC: Imma Kayzakian, Hannah Labreche, Kiara M. Nazario-Cartagena and Emily Shapiro were inducted into the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Holyoke Community College in October 2019.

Hartford: Emily Leblanc was named to the fall 2019 president's list at the University of Hartford.

Nichols: Alexis Ferris, a member of the class of 2020, was named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass. She completed the fall semester with a 3.7 GPA. She is an accounting major with a criminal justice minor, and is starting pitcher of the varsity softball team.

Siena: Emily McGuinness was

named to the fall 2019 president's list at Siena College in Loudonville, Ky.

SNHU: Aleisha Stevens was named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H.

Springfield: Three students from Holyoke were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Springfield College: Ana Fernandez, studying human services; Chandler Lalchandani, studying sports biology; and Noemi Pagan, studying human services.

STCC: Several Holyoke residents were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Springfield Technical Community College: Abdiel Acevedo, Keith E. Ashley, Johnny Calderon, Leah Danielle Daisy, Jessica L. Deyette, Jose O. Gaston Rivera, Mary Kennedy, Piper Lesley Lacharite, Eddy H. Lam, Lizmayra Lugo, Amirah Leigh Mahdy, Yadira Maldonado, Ibn Husein Muhammad, Duffy Michael Muller, Elvin L. Muniz, Silvia Damaris Ortiz,

Brody Evan Pike, Nicole A. Provost, Jeffrey Ramos, Edgardo Rivera Jr., Samuel Trombley, Stefanie Velazquez, and Melissa Lou Wurm.

St. Lawrence: Frank H. Wotton enrolled last fall as a member of the class of 2023 at St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y.

UMaine: Sophie Fitz was named to the fall 2019 dean's list at the University of Maine in Orono, Maine.

UMass-Amherst: Andres Martinez and Matthew Joseph McAndrew received bachelor's degrees during the September 2019 graduation ceremony at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

UNH: Amelia Haradon, majoring in animal science, was named to the fall 2019 dean's list with high honors at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H.

URI: Rachael Dearman and Nolan Keane were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at the University of Rhode

Island in Kingston, R.I.

WNEU: Several Holyoke residents were recently named to the fall 2019 president's list at Western New England University in Springfield, including Adam Maldonado, a sport management major; Megan McGuinness, a pre-pharmacy major; and Rebecca Shannon, a mechanical engineering major. Holyoke residents named to the dean's list included Kiara M. Dejesus, a criminal justice major; Nashali Pagan, a law and society major; and Jasmin D. Rodriguez, a psychology major.

WPI: Four Holyoke residents were named to the fall 2019 dean's list at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. They included Alexander Glanville, a member of the class of 2020 majoring in electrical and computer engineering; Tyler Guertin, 2023, aerospace engineering; Chenxi Li, 2022, mechanical engineering; and Connor Norton, 2022, biochemistry.

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
DEMOLITION SERVICES –
CABOT STREET

Quotes for the above work will be received until **9:00 a.m., March 12, 2020** by email submission to Yocelyn F. Delgado at ydelgado@hged.com or via drop off or mail to: 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040. Prevailing Wage Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the Mass. Dept. of Labor & Industries. OSHA 10 course is required. A 50% Payment Bond will be required if the selected quote is more than \$25,000.

Mandatory Site Visit:
Interested Contractors must conduct a mandatory site visit to occur prior to 3/12/20.

For additional information or to schedule the site visit, please contact Yocelyn F. Delgado (413) 536-9308 or via email to: ydelgado@hged.com.
2/28/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0322EA
Estate of:
Catherine Eastman
Also known as:
Catherine C. Eastman
Date of Death: 12/21/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michelle L. Croteau** of Chicopee MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Michelle L. Croteau** of Chicopee MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of **03/18/2020**.

This Is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
2/28/2020

tled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 19, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
2/28/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD19P1577EA
Estate of:
Moises Rosario
Date of Death: 06/04/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Sale of Real Estate** has been filed by **Ramona Rosario Gregorio** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/17/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing

date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 14, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
2/28/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD19D1441DR
Mayra L Cruz vs. David Ortega
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING
To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
Michael J Grilli, Esq.

Law Offices of Michael J. Grilli
1 Monarch Place
Suite 1360
Springfield, MA 01144
your answer, if any, on or before **05/12/2020**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 14, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
2/28/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P0282EA
Estate of:
Anita Shea
Date of Death: 01/14/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **David J Luba** of Leesburg VA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **David J Luba** of Leesburg VA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without**

Surety on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/12/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

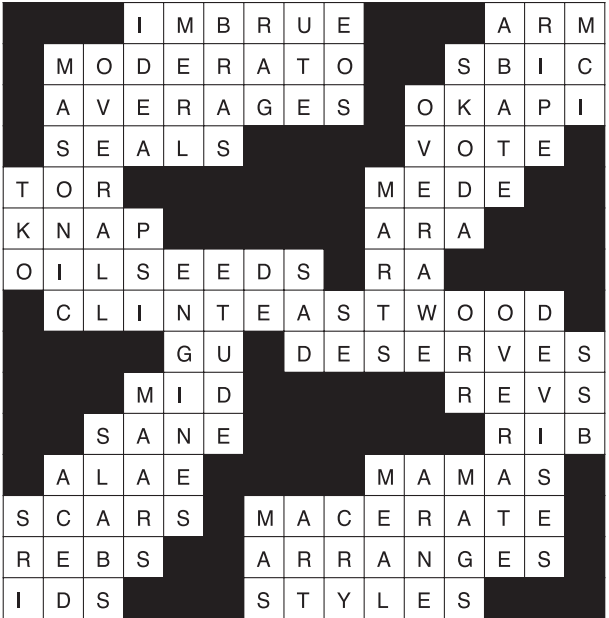
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 13, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
2/28/2020

HOW TO SUBMIT PUBLIC NOTICES

All public notices to be published in the Holyoke Sun should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Jamie Joslyn processes all public notices for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie directly at 413-283-8393.

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Please check the accuracy of your public notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



The Sun

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IRISH, from page 1

One example is in Northampton, where AOH members have been part of the group that maintains the memorial to Dominic Daley and James Halligan, two Irish immigrants who were executed after being unjustly convicted of murder in 1806.

Mr. and Mrs.

Hogan said the highlight of the evening is the awarding of parade sashes and other tokens of honor to “Mr. Hibernian” and “Ms. Hibernian,” two people who exemplify the Hibernian motto of “Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity.” Mr. Hibernian 2020 is Matt O’Connor, a Holyoke resident who works for the South Hadley Department of Public Works. He is best known for his work as a bagpiper with the Springfield Kiltie Band.

“It’s very humbling,” O’Connor said of the honor. “It’s just a heck of an honor to be thought of so highly by so many I think so highly about.”

This year’s Ms. Hibernian Kelly O’Connor — no relation to Matt — is the director of religious education at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Holyoke and St. Patrick’s Church in South Hadley. In a short speech, she also said she felt humbled by the honor.

A grand time

The Colleen’s Court participated in Saturday’s festivities, exactly a week after the coronation ceremony selected South Hadley teen Moira McDermott as the grand colleen.

McDermott said she enjoyed her first seven days as the grand colleen. Her duties started almost immediately, as the

Colleen’s Court helped host the Princess and Pirate Party at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round on Feb. 16. Another highlight of the week for her was learning ceili dancing at the John Boyle O’Reilly Club.

“This has really been an exciting experience,” she said.

She said she was especially looking forward to one of her upcoming duties, however. The Colleen’s Court goes on a tour of Holyoke elementary schools, and she said she’s eager to meet and interact with the students at Lawrence School, where her own mother is a teacher.

Reason to quilt

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was busy selling raffle tickets for this year’s hand-embroidered quilt. There are 20 featured blocks, for the 20th year that the LAOH has held a quilt raffle. One block is the LAOH emblem, and the rest represent the themes of the previous 19 quilts.

LAOH members who worked on the quilt include Amy Auclair, Catherine Collamore, Kathleen Dunn, Cheryl Dupont, Noranne Duquette, Abby Griffin, Jane Kane, Paula Lunney, Patricia Meon, Mary Pat Murphy, Mary O’Connor, Taryn Ortiz, Paula Paoli and Donna Shipman, “with special thanks” to Barbara Twohig and Karen Motyka.

Raffle tickets are \$1 apiece. The winner will be drawn at a St. Patrick’s Committee event during the week before the parade — the winner need not be present. Funds raised will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Scholarship and other LAOH charities.

Paoli said the annual quilt takes months of work and planning for next year’s quilt will begin in just a few weeks.



From left, Irish Night organizers Joe O’Connor and Fran O’Connell stand with Ancient Order of Hibernians President Paul Hogan and James Cannon.

Photos by Michael Ballway



Holyoke residents Dan and Myriam Mortimer get ready to dig in to their dinner of corned beef, cabbage, potato and carrots.



Dancing the “Gay Gordons” during Irish Night are Pat and Joy Bartley, left, and Jim and Pam Brough, right.



Grand Colleen Moira McDermott and her court — from left, Haley Dusseault, Natalie Mayko, Emily Couture and Trish Haradon — pose in front of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians raffle quilt.



Students from the Cassin School of Irish Dance in West Springfield demonstrated Irish step dancing at Saturday’s event.



In addition to being named “Mr. Hibernian,” Matt O’Connor played Irish airs on the bagpipes at the start of the Feb. 22 celebration and after dinner.

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